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WE SHALL REPAY THE GERMANS

GENERAL SIKORSKI

THE time is drawing near when we shall repay the Germans by blitzkrieg methods which they will no longer be able to counter

IN his clash with Russian armies which, under the leadership of M. Stalin, are showing such magnificent determination, Hitler can no longer treacherously attack and separately destroy one carefully chosen opponent after another. The character of the war is now changing completely, both in Africa and Europe

MASSED hatred of the oppressed peoples, which will be released at the right moment through an invasion of Europe, will give to the final blow dealt by the United Nations an impetus so great that it will bring about the inevitable defeat of Hitler

GENERAL SIKORSKI, *the Polish Prime Minister, in a speech in New York on January 9*

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Running Commentary

Axis Leaders' Speeches: Then and Now

In a broadcast from Rome on Saturday (January 9), the Italian Radio Commentator, Mario Appellius, said, "At some points here and there, on various sectors of the front, Russians have broken through the Axis lines. They have succeeded in occupying some advanced positions—we might even add, some important positions. The Russian soldier has fought well and his leaders are good." He further said that the Axis Powers had a very hard year in front of them and that they had steeled themselves for the worst. It is interesting to compare this summing-up of the Axis position with the utterances of the Axis leaders some time ago. Last year, in his New Year message to the troops, Hitler said "The year 1942 shall, so we pray the Lord, bring a victorious decision for our people and for the nations allied with us." Referring to Russia, he said, "The enemy's attempt during the winter of 1941 to turn their fate to attack must, and will, fail." In January last year, speaking at the Berlin Sportspalast, Hitler paid a tribute to the "superhuman feats" of the German infantry and said, "It is not the Russians who imposed the defensive upon us but temperatures of 35 and 45 degrees centigrade below zero." He told the German people, "The hardest lies behind us. The winter was the greatest hope for this opponent in the East, but it is a hope that will fail him. . . There will come a year when the ground is hard and firm, and then the German musketeer will attack, and then we shall beat the foe again. The soldier at the front has the feeling of immense superiority to the Russians." Boasting of his great strength and superiority, Hitler said: "How this year will end, I do not know. But one thing I do know. Wherever the enemy appears we will beat him again this year. It will again be a year of great victories. To-day we have the strongest army in the world and the strongest air force. There remains to us no other way but the way of battle, and the way of success."

But what has he to say this year? The old boasting and bluster are not much in evidence. In his message to the troops, he recalls only his moments of past agony. He says, "In anxious nights, I lay awake and my thoughts were with you." He is no longer in a position to offer them easy victory. He tells his "brave musketeers" this: "How heavy this struggle is, and may be in the future, and however often the balance of success may tip in favour of the enemy—at the end there will be a German victory." But there is the haunting spectre of the second land front in Europe. He says, "From Norway to the Spanish frontier German divisions are awaiting the attack of our enemy." Hitler said last year that the *Luftwaffe* was the best in the world, but he now describes it modestly as "achieving the utmost possible." His "best army" has been reduced "to the armed S.S. who are immediately and personally placed under me and are now as before the backbone of the formidable struggle."

The concluding portion of Hitler's speech ends in a peroration which shows an unaccustomed fear and modesty. He said: "The year 1943 may perhaps be

difficult, but certainly not more difficult than the past years. If God gave us the strength to overcome the winter 1941–42, then we shall certainly get over this winter and the coming year."

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Boastful Goering Pleads for Toughness and Endurance !

Hitler's lieutenant, Goering, also indulged in boasts of Germany's strength last year. In October 1942, he said, "This winter will be in no comparison with the winter of last year. This time we are prepared, this time we know what the Russian winter is like and we will bear it more easily. The enemy have suffered losses during the last winter by continuous attacks to an extent which we cannot imagine. Where, I ask you, did the Russians win even once a success of modest tactical significance ?" He wound up his speech with a deliberate falsehood. He said, "The decisive factor is that the Russian is beaten at the centre of gravity and this is fixed by us and not by the Russians. This has always been the case."

And what has the same Goering said in his New Year message a few days ago ? "In the spirit of our dead heroes," he says, "we pledge ourselves to fight for Germany to the last breath." He thanked his comrades for all that they did during the difficult days of the past year. The usual prophecies and predictions as to the future are conspicuous by their absence. "In this hour", says Goering, "we do know what the future holds in store." He wants unquestioning loyalty to the Fuehrer, for "without toughness, endurance and discipline no battle was ever won."

BURMA ROAD OF THE AIR.—This picture was taken at a United States Air Base in India, which is one of the many supply depots for war material sent to China. The material is flown to its destination over the new 'Burma Road of the Air.' Photo shows supplies being loaded into a giant transport plane prior to flight.

Russian Campaign and German Propaganda Perplexities

What about Dr. Goebbels, the Propaganda Minister of Hitler ? In December 1941 in *Das Reich* and in his closely supervised radio commentaries, he referred to "the increasing difficulties of civil life" and said, "The field post is overtaxed and consignments to the front are only possible to a limited extent." But on January 18, 1942, Goebbels was in his usual element.

(*Continued on page* 6.)

General Sikorski's Warning

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IN a speech in New York on Saturday, General Sikorski, the Polish Prime Minister, declared that the time was drawing near when the Germans would be repaid by blitzgrieg methods which they would no longer be able to counter. He said that the massed hatred of the oppressed peoples would be released at the right moment through an invasion of Europe and this would give to the final blow dealt by the United Nations an impetus so great that it would bring about the inevitable defeat of Hitler. General Sikorski is in a peculiar position to speak with first-hand knowledge of the Nazi oppression in Europe and the hatred of people of the occupied countries against Hitlerian tyranny, for it was his country, Poland, which suffered most under the Nazi heel.

IT may be recalled that ever since the Germans over-powered Poland in October 1939, they were subjecting the Polish people, particularly the Jews, to all possible indignities and atrocities. The Polish population was first deprived of its leaders, big landowners, doctors, lawyers, teachers, priests and businessmen. During the first few months of the occupation, thousands of them were executed and tens of thousands were deported to the *General-Gouvernement*, one of the bisected parts of Poland which was supposed to constitute, according to the decree of October 12, 1939, " the future settlements of the Polish nation." Later the deportation was extended to the working classes. Whole villages were cleared of the Polish population, and Jews everywhere were treated with the greatest cruelty. The extent of the cruelty can be imagined when it is stated that Himmler and the Gestapo were in charge of the evacuation. They did all that was humanly possible to crush Polish self-respect and dignity and bring about misery and suffering.

THE University of Cracow, established in 1364, one of the oldest universities in the world, was the object of the special wrath of the Nazis. All the professors were arrested and deported to the concentration camps in Germany. The Universities of Warsaw, Lublin and Poznan also came under the destructive hands of the Nazis. Some of the University buildings were destroyed; scientific installations and instruments were dismantled and transported to the Reich, and a number of professors were imprisoned and allowed to die. The Germans aimed at a complete annihilation of Polish intellectual life and scientific institutions. A good deal was done to paralyse the economic life of the people. Workers were removed in large numbers to Germany to work in factories and farms. Thousands of Polish skilled metal workers, engineers, agricultural labourers and domestic servants were taken away to Germany.

Wholesale Executions

RECENT reports received by the Polish Government in London from a reliable source in Poland show that the orgy of destruction and exploitation continues unabated. During the last few months, it seems the German Government have deliberately adopted a policy of wiping out the Jewish race in Poland and, as far as possible, in other occupied countries. Wholesale executions of Jews began in the eastern Polish provinces soon after the Germans pushed back the Russians. In the city of Wilno, 60,000 Jews were murdered; at Rowne 14,000 Jews were killed and at Kowel the number was 10,000. Half of the Jewish population of Lwow was wiped out. Similar massacres have taken place in other towns in East Galicia. In March and April last year, mass murders began in Lublin, Central Poland. In Lublin town itself, only 2,500 Jews were left out of 30,000.

IN July the German terror moved to Warsaw, soon after the visit of Himmler. According to official statements in the Berlin press, there were 480,000 Jews crowded into the Warsaw ghetto. It may be remembered that, according to a German decree issued on October 17th, 1940, Warsaw was divided into three residential areas, one

for the Germans, one for the Poles, and one for the Jews. The best parts of the city, that is, the whole of the south-east quarter, with its parks and avenues, its promenade along the Vistula, its large modern houses and the many palaces of the Polish nobles built at the end of the eighteenth and the beginning of the nineteenth centuries, were all occupied by the Germans.

THE worst part was given to the Jews ; this was in the north-west between the main railway station, the Sazon Garden and the Danzig station. This ghetto has an enclosing wall with only a few gates. On July 20, the work of " liquidating " the ghetto was begun by placing a dense cordon of armed Germans around the ghetto boundary walls. Next morning the Germans entered the houses in the ghetto, singled out members of the Jewish intellectual class and shot them. The day after, all members of the Jewish Council who were not arrested, were compelled to put their signatures to a proclamation which began as follows :—" By order of the German authorities, all Jews living in Warsaw, without regard of age or sex, are to be deported to the east."

THE next day, July 23, the President of the Jewish Council, after a further interview with the German authorities, committed suicide. It seems the Germans ordered him to supply 10,000 persons, instead of 6,000 previously fixed, for evacuation the very next day.

SUBSEQUENTLY, deportation of the Jews was going on every day without a break. By September 1, about 250,000 Jews were sent out of Warsaw. For the month of September 120,000 ration cards were printed, for October only 40,000 ! From this we have some idea of the rate of expulsion of the Jews for that month.

Expulsion : *Modus Operandi*

THE " procedure " of expulsion is something like this. A cordon of armed Germans is formed around blocks of houses in the ghetto. Then the Germans enter the courtyards. They fire a few shots as a warning to the inhabitants to come out. Those who do not or those why try to hide are immediately shot. Cripples and old people who are not able to move are also disposed of in the same way. The rest are sent to the station for entrainment, and they are again sorted. The elderly and the useless are taken to the cemetery and shot. Those remaining are put into goods trucks, 120 persons in a truck large enough to hold only 40. The floors of the trucks are spread with quicklime ! The train starts after the trucks are closed and sealed. The Jews are taken to one or other of the three execution camps at Treblinka, Sobibor or Belzec. The train is unloaded there and the condemned are stripped naked and then killed. To bury the bodies a great " bulldozer " is installed at Triblinka. It is stated that the machine works without stopping and that the stench of decomposed bodies is so unbearable to all peasants for three miles around that they have fled away from their places. The horrors inflicted on the Jews are so great that in Warsaw, victims implore the Germans to shoot them there itself. A regular fee for this merciful act is said to be 100 zlotys !

NOT only from Poland, but all over enslaved Europe, from France, Holland, Norway and the Balkan countries, train-loads of Jewish deportees are being sent east. The conditions of " appalling horror and brutality " under which the Jews of all occupied countries are being transported has been referred to in a joint declaration of the United Nations which was read out in the House of Commons on December 17 by Mr. Anthony Eden, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs. The declaration concluded with a reaffirmation of the solemn resolution of the signatories " to ensure that those responsible for these crimes shall not escape retribution and to press on with necessary practical measures to this end."

GENERAL Sikorski has said that the time for repayment is drawing near. Sir Stafford Cripps, Britain's Minister of Aircraft Production, has, in a speech on Saturday, given an indication of the nature of this repayment. Germany and Italy will henceforwards be subjected to still heavier bombing. They will get, not a taste of their own medicine, but the whole lot of it, and more. And they will have to drink it to the dregs !

RUNNING COMMENTARY

(*Continued from page* 3.)

He said, "Never have our chances been so favourable as now and never therefore has it been so worth while as now to throw in the stakes." The next month, he said, "On the field of battle we Germans are always very great." On January 1, 1943, however, the supreme confidence in strength and victory is not so much in evidence. The Propaganda Minister prescribes "a hard determination" for "a victorious end." Considerable perplexity was shown by the German Propaganda Ministry over the Russian campaign. In a German commentary in English Dr. Goebbels and his men said, "The only real break-through by the enemy was in the middle Don." They had to agree that the "Soviet armies have not lost their striking power." They were compelled to admit that "when Rommel halted, the British and also the Americans sent every spare ship around the Cape to establish a tremendous preponderance in armour in the desert with a view to dealing Rommel a smashing blow."

A year ago Hitler and Goebbels went into ecstasies over the German transport system, which they said was a marvel. But now Goebbels says, "The German Command abstains from offensive fighting on a large scale because of the wear and tear of men and material involved. But the Russians attack not because they are strong but because they are weak. They attack because they know they are getting weaker day by day and the combined forces arrayed against them are getting stronger." Goebbels observes, "We can lose the war only through our own mistake. Our national strength is being sapped by the length of the war . . . Everything is at stake." And what is the hope he holds out for the New Year? "It may be a hard and bitter struggle," he says, "Fighting and Work are the slogans of the New Year."

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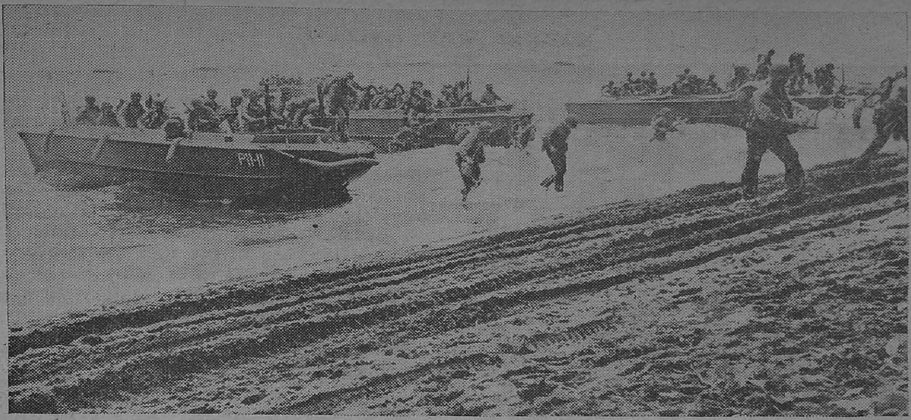
Tojo's Shattered Hopes and Fulfilled Fears

Let us look at the hopes held out by Hitler's counterpart in the Far East in 1942 and 1943. Addressing the 79th session of the Japanese Diet, a year ago, Tojo gave expression to his hopes and fears. Most of his hopes have been shattered, while a considerable percentage of his fears were fulfilled. Tojo gloried in his success but advised his followers to consolidate them quickly, for he said, "The U.S. and Great Britain boast of wealth, the greatest in the world. They will stiffen their resistance." Paying a tribute to his Fascist partners, he said, "We are profoundly gratified that our Allies, especially Germany and Italy, are steadily winning victories along with Japan for the establishment of a new world order." In the New Year message this year, Tojo cites China, Manchuria and Siam as his Allies whose "manpower and resources" he hopes will deal a final blow to the "enemies." It is surprising that Tojo should regard China as his ally. The Japanese have been driven out of Chekiang and Kiangsi and are facing resolute opposition in Hupeh. Siam seems to be the only ally, because Tojo is not sure of the Philippines, is uncertain of the Indies and the Japanese have actually been driven out of Papua. As regards Siam herself, she has been mourning her hard lot through the Bangkok radio right through last year. An apt commentary on Tojo's New Year message is the Bangkok Radio broadcast of December 26 which said, "My dear Thai troops, it is better for us to die than let the nation die."

Premier Tojo is always afraid of a protracted war. But his worst fears have come true. The "Axis victories" on which Tojo banked to capitalize his iniquitous gains have failed to materialise. In his latest Diet speech, Tojo said, "A real war is starting from now. The Allies will soon bomb Tokyo. A.R.P. efforts must continue without relaxation."

But it must be definitely understood that there are no signs as yet of a cracking of either German or Japanese morale which had been built up after years of propaganda and preparation. It will crack only when prolonged and bitter fighting smashes their powerful war machines. The recent speeches of the Axis leaders are not yet cries of despair. But their tone reveals the fact that the aggressor powers have passed from the offensive to the defensive—a tough defensive from Gudalcanar to Tunis. The Axis view 1943 with anxiety and concern, while the Allies regard it with optimism and hope.

FROM THE SOLOMONS



Marines leap ashore in the Solomons. Most had never been under fire before, but thorough training and innate toughness gave them all the dash and solidity of veterans.

This is a Japanese camp, wrecked by the U.S. Marine assault. Jap tents in the background are deserted. Food was still on the table when the Marines came through. The Japs lacked time even to destroy military stores.

A United States Marine lines up a group of Japanese captives on Guadalcanar in the Solomon Islands. The Japs were taken prisoners when the Marines invaded the Solomons.

Burma: End of Defensive Warfare

THE *National Herald* (Chungking) says: "The commencement of the Allied offensive in Burma furnishes proof of the fact that as far as the United Nations are concerned, the period of defensive warfare is over and the initiative is being wrested from the enemy practically on every war front."

The paper adds that the British troops in Burma have recovered a large area of territory and that the Chinese troops have intercepted a Japanese column. The initial successes merely mark the beginning of a large scale campaign which will result in complete victory over the enemy.

"In staging a counter-attack on the Asiatic mainland the first blows should certainly have struck against the Japanese in Burma. As both the Chinese and western military observers pointed out there are many advantages in attacking the Japanese in Burma.

"First, it will remove the Japanese threat to the security of India; secondly, it will eventually result in the re-opening of the Burma Road which will in turn make possible the launching of a general counter-offensive on the Chinese front after the Chinese forces have received adequate war supplies from abroad, and thirdly, the recovery of Burma will pave the way for dislodging the enemy from French Indo-China and Thailand."

JAPAN LOST THE INITIATIVE

"It is for these reasons that both the British and the American leaders have again and again openly stressed the necessity for recovering Burma. The fact that the Allied forces have at last started an offensive shows that adequate preparations must have been made. The most convincing proof of Japan's lack of striking power is her failure to invade either Australia or India following her initial successes in the Pacific. Now that the Allies have begun an offensive in Burma, the Japanese will find it extremely difficult to regain initiative."

The *Hin Hua Jih Pao* points out that the Japanese strategy at the present stage of the war is to preserve their strength and to await a suitable opportunity for action. It was not unlikely that the Japanese may mass a part of their forces for an attack on Yunnan. The present Japanese offensive against western Yunnan was only exploratory in nature. If the Japanese discover possibilities of this exploratory offensive, it is probable that they would concentrate considerable forces for a large-scale attack on western Yunnan.

SIGNIFICANT OFFENSIVE

"We must attack so as to crush the intrigues of the enemy and act in concert with our Allies in western Burma. Field Marshal Wavell's offensive at this time is highly significant inasmuch as it has assisted the Chinese forces in waging a defensive warfare in Yunnan by diverting the enemy forces from the Yunnan front. It is a tentative attempt for the re-occupation of Burma and it is yet too soon to say that the recovery of Burma will be brought about by the present offensive. More careful military arrangements will have to be made."

The *Shih Shih Pao* says: "British forces are now advancing in western Burma. We hope that instead of being satisfied with the occupation of important ports and aerodromes, they will intensify the offensive against the Japanese in Burma."

PRIVILEGES FOR INDIAN SOLDIERS

An Ordinance just promulgated confers important additional privileges on Indian soldiers in the matter of civil and revenue litigation.

Till now it was only when the Indian soldier was himself a party and unable to attend because of active service that the courts could postpone proceedings. The Ordinance provides that even if the soldier is materially concerned in the outcome of the proceedings, although not a party, and his interests are likely to be prejudiced by his inability to attend, the court may suspend proceedings.

Under the existing Act only the soldier had the right to apply to a court within a specified time to set aside a decree or order passed against him while he was on active service. If he happened to die in action the position of his legal heirs in respect of this right was none too satisfactory. The Ordinance now makes it possible for the soldier's legal representatives to exercise the same right automatically.

Another important provision of the Ordinance modifies and extends the period of limitation in suits, appeals and applications to which the Indian soldier or his legal representative is a party. Besides the period during which the soldier has been on active service, which was always excluded, the Ordinance provides for the exclusion of the period from the date of soldier's death, while so serving, to the date on which official intimation is sent to his next of kin by the authorities in India.

Australia's All-in War Effort

By WARWICK FAIRFAX

A year ago in Australia we were achieving just a good war effort. Now it is not far short of an all-in war effort.

It might deflate the Japanese morale a little for them to know that at one time nothing stood between them and the conquest of Australia but a number of imperfectly trained Militia Divisions equipped with Lewis and Vickers guns and 18-pounders of the last war pattern.

There was not a tank and scarcely a decent bombing plane in Australia. Four divisions of air, everything that was any use, had gone overseas. Now there is a well trained fully equipped army, including armoured units, whose numbers in proportion to the population are probably unsurpassed in any country except Germany.

The use of conscripted militia for service outside Australian territories is now virtually assured. The delay in bringing this about is due largely to a peculiar twist in the Australian character whereby it has happened that a nation which has produced some of the finest troops in two world wars has never maintained a standing army of professional soldiers in peace time.

During this last year, the life of the ordinary citizen who is not engaged on war work has fallen more closely into line with that of his counterpart in England. Many of his necessities such as clothes, tea and sugar are similarly rationed, while luxuries such as bottled beer, spirits, tobacco and cigarettes are hard to get.

The public held its breath during the recent Solomons campaign knowing well enough that Australia was still not out of danger and is duly grateful for what America has done. But the Australians, none the less, are determined that a good share of the work be done, as we go northward, and shall be done for our own satisfaction by Australians.

BRITANSKY TANKOGRAD

" British-built tanks have been successfully used by the Russians on the central front. This statement was made to press representatives in ' Britansky Tankograd '."

Somewhere in the Russian forests,
Somewhere in the Zone of battle,
Stands an Anglo-Soviet Stronghold,
Bristling bastions of metal.
Lanes of giant Panzer-breakers,
Massed divisions, armour-clad,
Forged and built by British makers,
That's Britansky Tankograd.

Whippets, Valentines, Matildas, through the eastern pinewoods roll,
Tanks from Cradiffstrovsk, Leedsk, Glascow, Bristopol.

Forward to the Central Sector
Pours the mighty flood from Tanko-
Grad to rumple into action
With the tanks of Timoshenko.
Over versts of plain and ocean
Moving up without a hitch,
Thanks to Commissar Churchillov,
Thanks to Beaverbrookovitch.

Tanks from Rotherhamsk and Jarrovsk, England's pride and Soviet's Joy,
Tanks from Liverpolsk and Derbyev, Brumgorod and Coventroi.

—Sagittarius *in Soviet Union News.*

Four Far-reaching Decisions

DR. Wang Shih-chieh, Minister of Information, declared at a press conference in Chungking recently, that four far-reaching and significant decisions were reached at the recent Tenth Plenary Session of the Kuomintang Fifth Central Executive Committee, namely, the fixing of commodity prices, the building of solid foundations for a democratic state, and further heightening of national solidarity and the immediate formulation of broader lines of post-war policies. Dr. Wang's statement reads:

"The Central Executive Committee of the Kuomintang has just concluded its meeting after a continuous session of more than two weeks. To-day I wish to state some of the most important problems raised and decided upon in the session so as to give you an idea of the dominant thoughts in the minds of the leading members of the Party.

FIXING COMMODITY PRICES

"Firstly, the question of fixing of commodity prices according to costs of production occupied a larger portion of time than any other problem. The adoption of such a measure will naturally encounter many difficulties, especially in view of the fact that our local governmental machinery is inadequate and that our people have been for ages accustomed to laissez-faire traditions in their economic life. All kinds of popular scepticism against the advisability of strict price control were brought up for discussion in the session. But the unanimous opinion of the Party is that we shall overcome them if the central and local governments act with one policy and with one and same degree of determination. Besides, the Party regards the measure both as an end in itself, namely, to stabilize national economic life during the war, and as a means for the intensification of political training, since the application of this measure would naturally elevate the organizing power as well as administrative efficiency of the government.

NATIONAL RECONSTRUCTION

"Secondly, the Party was confronted with the much-mooted question: Should the task of national reconstruction be undertaken parallel with the prosecution of the war, or rather be deferred till after the war? The consensus of opinion is that the building of solid foundations for a democratic stage must be given an equal importance as the prosecution of the war. And in order to build such foundations, the Party puts primary emphasis on the early completion of local self-government. Strict and concrete measures were adopted to meet the enlarged budgetary requirements of the district government and to amplify its personnel during the coming year.

"Thirdly, the Party considers that for China satisfactorily to fulfil her external and internal responsibilities both during and after the war demands further heightening of national solidarity. Disunion of any kind or degree saps the nation of its vigour. The Party, by adopting a very liberal attitude towards any individuals or groups outside the Kuomintang who, whatever their past record, would henceforth loyally observe Dr. Sun Yat-sen's Three People's Principles, creates an unprecedented opportunity for them to rally under one and the same banner with the Kuomintang.

EXTERNAL POLICY

"Lastly, China's external policy received a very careful and thorough examination in the session. The question was raised as to whether we should discuss and formulate post-war policies in the midst of the war. The session came to the practically unanimous conclusion that not only must we discuss and formulate the broader lines of post-war policies right now, but the Government must exert its utmost to seek the immediate setting up of a world organization among the United Nations."

200 CABBAGES A MINUTE

One thousand machines which plant young cabbages at the astonishing rate of 200 a minute are now helping the farmers of Britain to speed up food production.

Hitched to a tractor, the robot planter has a travelling chain of iron fingers to which the plants are fed. A broad furrow is opened up in the soil into which the plants are suspended by these grippers, and, at the same time as the plant is released, two wheels firmly press down the soil around it. A water tank holding 40 gallons can also be fitted to the machine, and an adjustable quantity of water automatically poured into the furrow at the roots of the plants.

From one to four operators can feed the machine with plants at an average of 3,000 each person per hour, thus making an immense saving in time and labour. The spacing in the row of plants is mechanically accurate and can be controlled and adjusted to the distance required; the depth at which the seedlings are planted is also adjustable.

The robot can also plant potatoes by a simple arrangement of special cups attached to the grippers. It can be used too for lettuce, onions, leeks, swedes, sugarbeet, strawberries and tomatoes. Its iron fingers have a rubber covering which enables them to handle the most delicate plants quite gently while placing them firmly and evenly in the furrows.

The machine, which is a British invention, is now being produced at the rate of more than a thousand a year. It is electrically welded and made with great precision. The Ministry of Agriculture have bought a large number for Britain's War Agricultural Committees set up in the different counties.

Malta: Convoys Get Through Unmolested

Admiral Sir Henry Harwood, Commander-in-Chief in the Mediterranean, has revealed that during the past few weeks sufficient supplies have been carried to Malta to last the island for several months to come.

"Some of them", he stated, "got through entirely unmolested in strange contrast to the days when a Malta convoy was one of the most hazardous naval operations involving several days of almost continuous air attack. The army in winning back the Libyan bases, the Royal Air Force in providing fighter protection for our warships in the Central Mediterranean, and the Royal Navy in escorting supply ships have contributed equally towards relieving the island."

Discussing the changes in the naval situation resulting from the capture of Cyrenaica, Admiral Harwood said:

"The Eighth Army's advance has given the Navy freedom to go into the Central Mediterranean and we have taken advantage of it to get convoys to Malta. After our victory early in November, the Royal Air Force established fighter bases as far forward as they could, and we got the first convoy through with full air protection. Since then it has become progressively easier to supply the island as the enemy was forced further west, and we have pushed quite a 'considerable number of convoys into Malta.' By the time this is published, I hope another convoy will have got through."

ROMMEL'S SHIPS SUNK

The next problem, he added, was to stop Rommel's supply line to Tripoli. A single enemy convoy which has so far attempted to come east of Malta had turned back on seeing our forces, but Rommel is using a lot of shallow draught landing-craft which he is moving close to the Tunisian coast. Our aircraft were bombing them and the ports from which they came and went; surface craft were also trying to intercept them. Though there were difficulties, we are getting a good sprinkling of these lighters.

Paying a tribute to "the very grand work done by submarines," Admiral Harwood said that they had accounted for a large number of Rommel's ships, and there was no doubt that the Eighth Army was very greatly assisted by the damaging and sinking of Rommel's supply ships both by air and by British submarines.

EIGHTH ARMY'S SUPPLIES

Another important point in the Navy's programme was the question of the Eighth Army's supplies. The problem was to get everything ready in order to get the recaptured ports working as soon as possible. The moment we looked like capturing a port, the Navy sent an advance party forward to enter with land troops. Their job was to survey the port, assess damage and locate mines, etc. Then minesweepers cleared the approach channel. This was a combined operation by the three Services, since minesweepers could not operate until anti-air guns and fighter protection was established.

Minesweepers have done a grand job clearing Sollum, Mersa Matruh, Bardia, Tobruk and Benghazi. Admiral Harwood added: "The first cargoes were unloaded at Tobruk four or five days after it was occupied. The breach in the wall at Benghazi Harbour has been filled and work was going ahead at great speed. We are unloading cargoes faster than we had anticipated."

BRINGING BACK THE SHEEP AND COWS

Britain has begun the Empire's first large-scale experiments in artificial insemination, the revolutionary breeding process which after the war will do everything to bring the world's flocks and herds back to normal.

Britain's experiments in artificial insemination, already successfully practised in Soviet Russia, are being conducted by the Cambridge School of Agriculture and the National Institute for Research in Dairying. They show that in one year a single bull or ram can fertilize fifteen hundred cows or ewes, bringing the best blood in the world to the humblest keeper of livestock from thousands of miles away. It is the small farmer, unable to purchase a good bull, who will benefit most.

There has been some doubt about the reaction to the new departure of pedigree breeders with a vested interest in the sale of bulls but serious opposition from them is not expected although artificial insemination will certainly lower the prices of second-grade bulls.

Apart from Russia, Denmark, the Netherlands and Italy had all taken up artificial insemination before the war. The dairy breed societies in England have now recognized it and framed regulations for registering the animals so bred. Breed societies in the United States have actually sponsored the artificial insemination societies; and, with the present experiments in England, the outlook for building up the world's livestock population is definitely hopeful.

Fifth Column Activity in Tangier

THERE is a man in North Africa to-day who needs most careful watching. But, because his position is safeguarded by an international agreement which we—if not others—still respect, he may stay there and cause us the greatest inconvenience. He is Dr. Kurt Rieth, German Minister Plenipotentiary and Consul-General in the technically neutral international zone of Tangier, writes the *Daily Herald's* foreign editor. Before the present campaigns in North Africa are finished, we shall probably hear much more both of the hostile personality of Rieth and the neutral territory of Tangier.

Rieth is an expert in the organization of fifth column activities and espionage. He made his reputation among the Nazis when, as German Minister in Vienna, he instigated the murder of Chancellor Dollfuss. Austrian police quickly established quite definitely his connection with that outrage—apart from his personal intervention that the murderers should have safe passage to Germany. Then suddenly Hitler disowned the Austrian Nazi rebels and recalled Rieth, and the plotter diplomat disappeared into temporary obscurity.

A "COMMERCIAL AGENT"

He reappeared last year as a "commercial agent" in the United States. He went there from Mexico, and, from the moment he crossed the frontier, he was watched by G-men of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Within two months he was arrested and deported. He had been organising a pro-German group whose aim was to hinder the operation of the Lease-Lend Act.

Six months ago Hitler sent him to Tangier where he was received with due honours by the Spanish authorities then in control there.

That Spanish control is another product of this war, for, by the international agreement of 1923–28 Tangier was established as a neutral zone carved out of Spanish Morocco with an international committee of control. Spain, however, was given the policing of the zone. General Franco took advantage of that when France collapsed in June, 1940, to pour in Spanish troops well over the number required. Within a few months the Spanish garrison mounted from 1,000 to nearly 20,000. Franco then proclaimed that Spain had taken over full control of the zone. The International Control Committee was dissolved, and Tangier is now administered by the Spanish High Commissioner for Morocco. Britain protested against this action, and an interim agreement was negotiated under which it was promised that British rights in Tangier would be respected. An assurance was given that there would be no fortification of the Tangier zone, but there is reason to believe that the assurance has not been respected.

British subjects have had to suffer insults in Tangier, and Axis-inspired rioters have damaged British commercial properties. Axis envoys, the most dangerous of whom is Rieth, enjoy all privileges and are pampered by the Spanish authorities. Rieth and his colleagues have turned Tangier into a nest of espionage and intrigue and the inhabitants of Spanish Morocco provide them with a fertile field on which to work. Tangier gives them also a wonderful observation post from which to watch and report on Allied military activities in North Africa.

Turning Steel into Jewels

MILD steel which has been treated to perform the function of rare and expensive jewels, circular saws manufactured from old motor-car clutch-plates—these are only two of the daily wonders created by the Arsenal Brains Trust.

This is the name given to a little group of engineers and scientists who put their heads together at an Indian Army Arsenal. Their job is to devise substitutes for materials and machines now unobtainable.

Compass pivot bearings, ordinarily consisting of jewels, presented a serious problem, but this was overcome by the production of a metal bearing, manufactured by treating ordinary mild steel.

This achievement was the result of a great deal of research and experiment, but the result has cut the cost of the bearings down to a fraction of the expenditure on jewels.

Watchmakers' lathes, which demand the highest accuracy in manufacture, were required urgently. These high precision instruments were available only in Switzerland before the war. Now they are being produced in our own arsenals, with an accuracy limit of less than one-five thousandths of an inch.

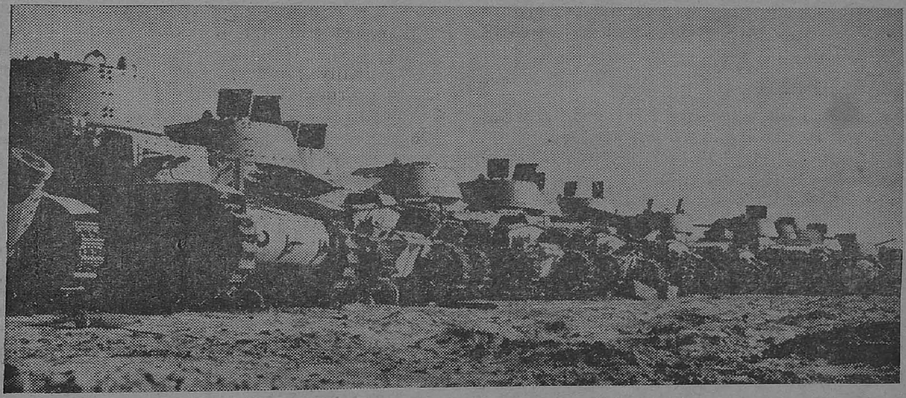
More accurate, too, than the original German-made articles are the circular dividing machines now being turned out by Indian Army Workshops.

Perhaps the knottiest problem of all arose when fine-splitting saws, required for urgent precision work, became unobtainable.

Then the "Brains Trust" had its brainiest notion. Somebody thought of adapting worn-out clutch-plates from condemned motor vehicles. To-day these have been transformed into saws sufficiently slim to split a hair.

FROM THE WESTERN DESERT

GENERAL ALEXANDER, Commander-in-Chief, Middle East, visited Benghazi, and is seen here driving his own Jeep.



ABANDONED ENEMY EQUIPMENT.—More and more evidence comes to light of the completeness of the Axis defeat in the Western Desert. No army retreating in an orderly fashion leaves guns, tanks and other war material in good working order. Rommel was forced to do so. Photo shows Italian tanks left intact by the enemy in his hurried flight westwards.

JUST A FEW PRISONERS.—The New Zealanders have been raiding with their armoured cars. These are just a few of the prisoners they have rounded up.

Hitler's Himalayan Blunder

HITLER'S New Year messages to the German Army and people reveal a much chastened Fuehrer. Gone are the dazzling prospects; gone, too, is his overweening arrogance.

Clearly, the old year has been sobering. That Hitler should have come to a mood of "to be or not to be" is eloquent of the change of fortunes. Such points deserve to be noted, but ought not to overshadow the serious content of his messages.

When Hitler impresses on his armed forces that more and better weapons are being forged for the spring, he confirms the miscalculations which the Germans made. It is not the first time that he has talked about new weapons. In one of his rare speeches in 1942 he boasted that German inventive spirit had not been idle and that his enemies had better look out.

References to new weapons probably mean no more than that existing types are being improved and are being turned out on an abundant scale. Yet it may be reasonably doubted whether performance will or can come up to Hitler's promise.

HEAVY STRAIN

For a year all Germany has been under a strain such as she had not known before. How limiting—and, indeed crippling—such a diversion can be is seen in the immense improvisation to which the Russian winter of 1941–42 drove the German war machine. The heavy tax upon fighting spirit and the high human cost which persistent Russian assaults inexorably required of the fighting front were aggravated by a totally unforeseen burden which was felt in every home and every factory of the distant Reich. Transport, supply, hospital and many other services were suddenly called upon to succour, salve and secure an army chilled, wasting, marooned in bleak, frozen country. It is cold comfort for the German people and armed forces to be assured by Hitler that this winter will at any rate not be worse than the last.

This vast diversion of effort backed by relentless Russian pressure had certain clear military consequences. One was that the German offensive of 1942 did not open until July. Another was that, when it did open, it embraced—surprisingly—no more than a section of the front south of Voronezh. Hitler's own excuse—that the aim of his summer offensive was no higher than the interruption of traffic up the Volga—is a palpable and revealing falsehood.

THE RUSSIAN WAR

The Russian war was in truth Hitler's Himalayan blunder. Instead of the clean, quick triumph with unlimited prestige and loot which it was meant to bring, it has yielded—and is yielding—losses almost past reckoning and certainly past recovery. It presented Germany with a new and fundamental problem. Provisioning and maintenance of the fighting front alone called for a major effort. One estimate is that in the winter of 1941–42 Russian snows killed or incapacitated as many Germans as did Russian bullets, bombs, bayonets and shells. Earlier practice had been for the army to release skilled men in winter for work in war factories. Instead of men being released from the front for factories, men from factories have had to make good the gaps at the front. Yet the need for munitions remains—and more pressingly than ever.

Therefore Europe has been scoured for materials, its workers dragooned by press gangs, and its factories brought into the service of the German war machine. The measure of success must not be underrated. The army of foreign labour now in the Reich is nearer 6,000,000 than 5,000,000. In the Reich itself the whole industrial system has been geared to greater production.

NOTHING ACHIEVED

What has the enemy achieved by all his exertions, shifts and stratagems? His all-important transport system is working, but only just; the destruction wrought by the Royal Air Force on his railways and locomotives is already much, and will be more; the strain of the eastern campaign and the opening of the Mediterranean front is growing apace. Food supply is assured, thanks to the not too bad harvest, enriched by the filching of others' produce. The grim and grievous application of Goering's assurance that no matter who goes short, the Germans will not, is shown by independent evidence of starvation and semi-starvation in such countries as Greece and Belgium.

There is every reason to believe that concentrated industry and ingenuity are going into the swelling construction of U-boats—a fact which can be neglected only to the dire peril of the whole Allied plan.

For the United Nations the picture is formidable but neither discouraging nor surprising. Vast resources of the German Command inside and outside the Reich are waning at a time when Allied resources are waxing. Little wonder that Hitler and his henchmen harp more than ever nowadays on 1918. The memory of the soundly beaten German army of 1918 is not one to sustain the spirit of the Germans fighting in Russia and elsewhere, but the Allies may draw from these efforts the assurance that what was done in that momentous year by skilled, pertinacious and valient battling can and will be done again in this.—*The Times.*

Mighty Onrush of Russian Armies

THE enemy seems still unable to stem the mighty onrush of the Red Army into the Donetz basin, writes *The Times*. War exacts a terrible penalty for failure and a too ambitious plan. When the German Commander divided his force, sending one army to the east to the assault of Stalingrad and the other south to attempt a passage of the Caucasus, the attainment of tolerable winter quarters for either depended on complete success in carrying its objectives.

The foiling of both plans reduced the enemy to a dangerous pass that the Soviet forces are now exploiting. The army arrested half in and half out of the ruins of Stalingrad and now effectively isolated, becomes every day less of a striking force and more a target; its perilous predicament imposes upon the main body of the German army the necessity for exhausting attempts at its relief at a time when there is no strength to spare from the task of meeting all other multiplying threats.

The full value of the successful denial of oil fields will be felt in the long term rather than short. There are, however already signs suggesting that lack of fuel is hampering German operations on the South Russian front itself. This is one thesis of the curious immobility of Hoth's beleaguered army and its apparent sluggishness in seconding the efforts to relieve it from outside notwithstanding the great stores of munitions known to be within the ring.

A REMARKABLE EXPLOIT

Another is the very remarkable exploit announced by the Russians in the capture of 300 German aircraft on the airfield at Tatsinskaya. It would be rash to underestimate the tactical resources that the enemy still commands for defence. But strategically the failure of the summer campaign leaves the German army with a bleak outlook. The great number of prisoners taken by our Allies in proportion to the number of other casualties they claim to have inflicted tells its own tale.

In some places leading formations of great offensive have now advanced more than 100 miles from their starting points. Most of the Don bend is again in Russian hands and there has been considerable penetration in the Ukraine. It has surely been a spur to the ardour of the assault that it coincides in time with the 25th anniversary of the foundation of the Ukrainian Socialist Soviet Republic.

There is every prospect of the speedy arrival of the Red Army on the Donetz river itself. Some of the ground regained in the past few days is of exceptional strategic value. Perhaps the most important is the storming of Tatsinskaya. To hold this situation is to cut the line of supply leading towards Stalingrad from a network of railways in the industrial area of the Donetz basin.

ANOTHER COUNTER-OFFENSIVE REPULSED

South-west of Stalingrad yet another German counter-offensive for the relief of Hoth has been repulsed. The enemy has little choice but to persist with these attacks, yet when they fail, he risks the creation of fresh weak points and the call for yet other rescue expeditions. Meanwhile, the uneasiness resulting from defeats elsewhere has communicated itself to the German army in the Caucasus. The situation in that region must now be one of rapidly increasing anxiety. The corridor through which run the enemy's landward supplies have been greatly narrowed by the Russian advance in the Don bend and the whole of the system of communications for the Caucasus army hinges on the possession of Rostov which can no longer be reckoned to be immune from attack. The thrust from the Don has now reached within 80 miles of the town—a lesser distance than that already traversed. There is as yet no indication where it can be halted.

More Fifth Columnists!

("A LIE HAS ONLY TO BE BIG ENOUGH TO BE BELIEVED"—HITLER)

It was notified in the press a few days ago that a number of fair price grain shops had been opened at different localities in the city, where rice would be sold at 2¾ measures per rupee. The employees of some workshops are afraid to patronize these shops, because they have heard a rumour that the public have been warned by Police tom-toming that it is unsafe to purchase rice at these shops as it contains Cholera germs. The rumour is ridiculous and completely incorrect. It has obviously been started by Fifth Columnists or profiteers.

Russia: Allied Aid Through Persian Gulf

WAR supplies are pouring into Russia by road and rail from the Persian Gulf ports to back up the Red Army's triumphant forward sweep, cables the *Daily Telegraph* Baghdad correspondent.

Tanks, aircraft, heavy engineering stores, ammunition, jute and many other essentials, brought from Britain, America and India are flowing across deserts and mountains to the frozen tracts where the battles are raging. The speeding of the Allied aid to Russia is now the chief concern of the Persian-Irak force, under the command of General Sir Maitland Wilson, which is composed of British and Indian troops of our Tenth Army plus a large Polish Army and a number of Americans. It was originally formed to relieve General Alexander of any anxieties in this direction and to safeguard the oilfields and to protect and strengthen vital supply lines.

Now the Allied victories in Russia and North Africa allow it to concentrate its efforts on the material support of the Red Army. Meanwhile the British and the Indian sappers have performed prodigies in widening rough roads, surfacing them with shingle and bitumen and easing the gradients and curves.

This is sappers war and when its history is written one of their outstanding feats will appear as this long labour on Persia's highways. Now trucks are landed at the gulf ports and are driven thousands of miles to the points where they are handed over to the Russians.

The fighting rôle of the Persian-Irak Force is not forgotten while this most important supply work goes on.

A realistic four-day exercise has just concluded among the hills of northern Persia already covered by winter snows.

The defending force occupied a valley between hills 4,000 feet high, the position being thoroughly wired and mined. The attacking army had to clear a way through wire and minefields, forming bridgeheads supported by live artillery and mortar fire.

All the lessons learned in Russia and in the Western Desert are being applied and the troops are being trained in ski-warfare. The force is still being strongly reinforced but its future employment depends on the Russian events in the first months of 1943.

SAID IN 1830

"National animosity is a peculiar thing. In the lowest degrees of civilisation it is always strongest and most violent."

—GOETHE.

Indian Military Police

INDIA'S Army will soon have its own "Red caps", as military police are called. A school for the training of Indian Military Police, the first of its kind, has been opened in the Persia and Iraq Command.

Main aim of the training is not merely that the men should police but that they should help the Indian soldier. In fact, this is such an important part of the training that extra pay will be given to all Indian Military Policemen who prove by example that they are there to assist the soldier and not condemn him.

The standard of physical and mental fitness required of a good Military Policeman is naturally high, and only the best man can hope to enter the school and emerge proudly wearing the black and red armlet!

The period of training is short but strenuous. For six weeks the candidates work under expert instructors who are all Indian (with the exception of the Chief Instructor). Among the subjects taught are unarmed combat, traffic control, military law, general duties and discipline, motor-cycle riding and maintenance, security, map-reading, accident reporting, road reconnaissance and first aid.

At the passing out examination the questions range from dress regulations and behaviour of troops to fifth column activity and sabotage.

It is little realized what an important part Military Police play in the field of battle. There his duties include the marshalling of convoys, regulating and dispersing traffic, guarding prisoners, rounding up stragglers and generally acting as an "Information Bureau."

"The Red Army is Coming"

TWO broadcasters, Ilya Ehrenburg (Russian) and Hans Fritsche (German) spoke of the War on December 29. Here is what they said :

Ilya Ehrenburg : In September 1942, Germany believed that victory was at her door-step. At her doorstep was chasm. On September 30, Hitler believed he had Stalingrad in his pocket. Stalingrad became his grave. No longer do gretchens expect their swains at the front to send them gifts of caviare from the Volga. Those swains are now whining somewhere between the Volga and the Don.

" British bombs have had a salutary effect on Italian psychology. The jackal no longer brags about the great Roman Empire but is busy advising townspeople to pack up then chattels and live in the fields. Of Rommel they used to say in Germany that he kept advancing even when he slept. Rommel is now retreating even in his sleep—at the rate of 60 miles per day. He has proved a better adept at this game than the Italians. The judgment is nigh. The Red Army is coming—sword in hand. We remember everything. We remember our slaughtered women, the massacres at Kerch, the ruins of Kiev, the gallows at Volokolamsk. The verdict is being written with the bayonets of our men."

Hans Fritsche : " The Red Army is like a hydra which grows a new head the moment another has been cut off. When we look back, we realize once again all the difficulties which confronted both our soldiers at the front and our people at home. We recall the sufferings of our soldiers during the last winter when they dug into frozen ground and had to withstand onslaught after onslaught from the enemy. We remember our surprise at the ample war material, and the seemingly inexhaustible reserves of manpower which the enemy was able to throw in, in his spring offensive. We also remember the bitterness of the fighting in Africa, Rommel's brilliant action first in holding and then in driving back the enemy, vastly superior in numbers—the enemy who has now succeeded in winning back what Rommel had taken in his lightning advance. Of course, we realize that the fortunes of war are bound to change from time to time. But we are fortunate that the ups and downs are taking place far from our frontiers so that the result of one day's or one month's fighting can in no way decide whether we are to be or not to be."

Ballad of the German Bride

And what did he send you, my bonny lass,
From the old, old town of Prague ?
From Prague he sent me the ribboned shoes,
For my dancing toes, the ribboned shoes,
From the old, old town of Prague.

And what did he send you, my bonny lass,
From Oslo over the sea ?
From Oslo he sent me a fur-lined hood,
So soft and so good, my fur-lined hood,
From Oslo over the sea.

And what did he send you, my bonny lass,
From the riches of Amsterdam ?
From Amsterdam he sent me a bonnet,
With gold thread upon it, a fine starched bonnet,
From the riches of Amsterdam.

And what did he send you, my bonny lass,
From Brussels in Flanders so red ?
From Brussels he sent me the shimmering lace,
To set off my face, the shimmering lace,
From Brussels in Flanders so red.

And what did he send you, my bonny lass,
From Paris, the city of light ?
From Paris he sent me a silken dress,
A dreaming caress, ah ! silken dress !
From Paris, the city of light.

And what did he send you, my bonny lass,
From the deep, deep Russian snow ?
From Russia he sent me my widow's weeds,
For the funeral feast, my widow's weeds,
From the deep, deep Russian snow,
My widow's weeds, from the deep, deep Russian snow.

—From a B.B.C. English programme.

Nazi Children's Marching Song

Though the whole world be ruined around us after the day of war,
What the devil do we care ?—We don't give a hoot any more.
We will go marching forward, though everything fall away,
For the world will be ours to-morrow, as Germany is to-day !

Grit and Courage

By V. NAKRASOV

"COME, I want to intoduce you to our heoine," said the squadon commande as we walked up the stairs to the pilots' quarters.

We entered a small but surprisingly cosy room with four beds covered with snowwhite spreads. It was obvious that this was a girl's room. Neat dainty window curtains, mirrors, perfume and powder boxes were abundant evidence of this.

Coming to meet us from the table, which bore a neat stack of books, was a slender girl about 25 years' old in khaki, green, tunic and blue skirt. On her tunic were two brand-new decorations for valour in action.

"Meet Marusia Chikhireva, the pride of the whole squadron," the commander said.

The girl lowered her blue eyes. A tinge of red appeared on her cheeks and she looked embarrassed. "Why so much publicity, comrade commander," she said quietly.

CHOSE THE FRONT

But very soon no trace of her embarrassment remained. We began a friendly talk and she told me of her life and work in aviation.

There are thousands of girls like Marusia Chikhireva in the Soviet Union. Marusia was a polisher at the Moscow Cutglass Plant, and several years ago took up flying in her spare time. Later she entered a regular aviation school and graduated as a radio operator.

When the hour of peril struck she refused to stand aloof in the struggle against the Hitlerite invaders. She was still a cub radio operator and was given the choice of either remaining with her unit which was about to leave for the front or being transferred to some other unit. Marusia did not hesitate a single minute. "My place is at the front," she told the commander. She was in action for the first time on the third day of the war.

CRACK RADIO OPERATOR

Marusia Chikhireva is justly considered the unit's crack radio operator. Her courage and coolness never abandon her, however trying and apparently hopeless the circumstances may be. Under enemy anti-aircraft fire and in numberless combats with Nazi fighters Marusia has never failed to maintain constant radio communication with the home field.

For quite some period Marusia's squadron paid regular visits to a town besieged by the Germans and kept its defenders supplied with food and ammunition, returning with wounded men or evacuated women and children.

One day owing to bad weather conditions Marusia's plane made a forced landing before it could reach its destination. A group of enemy planes sighted our aircraft just as it was landing.

Marusia remained cool. If anything, she was tingling with the feeling that comes at the beginning of a dangerous battle. "Keep an eye on the passengers, Marusia," her pilot said, "and see that there is no panic. Meanwhile . . . ."

But Lieutenant Skrylnikov did not finish the sentence. He dashed for the machine-gun and opened fire on three Messerschmitts flying across the grey-clouded sky.

TENDS THE WOUNDED

Marusia removed her earphones and went over to the passengers. The women were frightened, some of them ready to jump out of the plane. Marusia soothed them and set them at rest as best she could. She felt that all these women and children were watching her every movement and that much depended on her behaviour.

The first bomb explosion could be heard nearby, then a second and a third. Soon everything was drowned in one ear-racking pandamonium of exploding bombs. One of them dropped quite near the plane and the heavy machine rocked from wing to wing. Marusia was thrown out of her seat and she lost consciousness. When she came to she saw that seveal of the passengers had been wounded.

There was no time to think of her own injured head and shoulder. She had to attend to the wounded and Marusia set about this piece of work with customary energy.

Skrylnikov came out of the machine-gunner's cockpit. "How are things," he inquired. "Three wounded," replied Marusia.

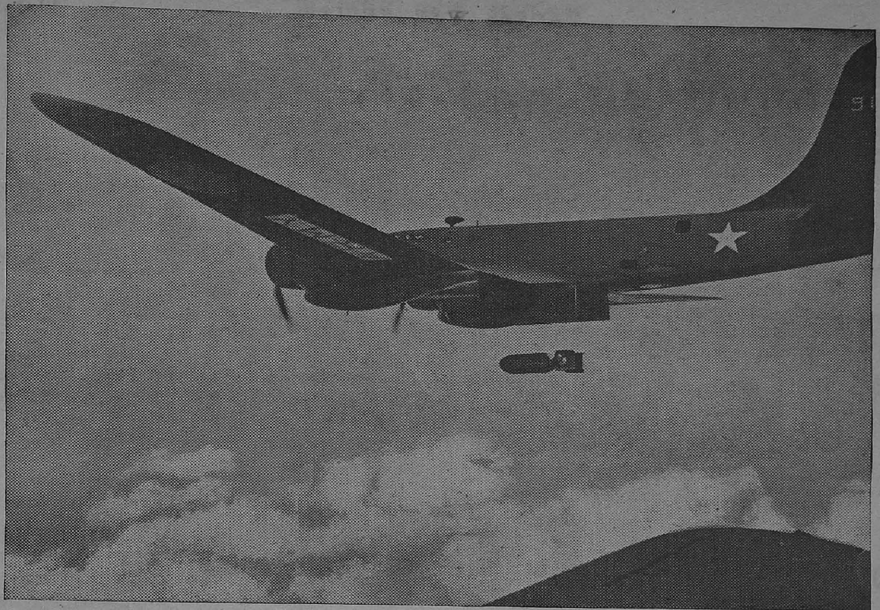
"How's the old bus?"

"Everything seems O.K. except for two holes in the fuselage."

A few minutes later the plane took to the air and Marusia was back at the radio apparatus. She was still weak. Her head was whirling and her left arm hung limp. Every movement was sheer torture, but she stuck to her job, soon made contact with the home field and tapped off the plane's message.

This Soviet girl carries out every assignment with the greatest devotion and bravery.

"BLOCK-BUSTER" IN ACTION



Destruction below! A one-ton American bomb is pictured in this remarkable picture an instant after it was released from a U.S. plane.

Detonating with an earth-shaking crash, it sends smoke, flame and earth 2,000 feet skyward. This photograph was taken with a telescopic lens from a point one mile from the blast.

John Citizen Goes to War

THREE years of war. Three years of struggle. Three years in which the Navy, the Army and the Air Force, the factories, the farms and the dockyards have all played their part in strengthening Britain's power.

They have been doing big things, things that hit the headlines. But meanwhile the ordinary little man, with no uniform and no medals, has been doing his small bit. Grumbling at the price of beer, fishing for a sixpence for a savings stamp, getting his wife to turn his frayed shirt cuffs; trying to cut down smoking, walking where he used to ride, digging up his backyard, doing without his extra cup of tea; and cursing (and paying) the income-tax.

No wonder he doesn't hit the headlines. But multiply him by nearly 50,000,000 (giving the shirkers the benefit of the doubt) and he, too, has done big things in these three years of war.

WHERE THE MONEY GOES

in 1942–43, it is estimated, the British inland revenue will net in taxes nearly treble what it did in 1938–39—£1,522,000,000 as against £520,000,000.

In 1941, it is estimated, about 40 per cent of the British national income went in taxes, including compulsory contributions for social insurance, war risks or damage, etc.

Over and above all taxes and restrictions the British are voluntarily saving or giving nearly every penny they can. In the first quarter of 1942 British small savings amounted to more than eight times what they were in the first quarter of 1939—£209,000,000 against £25,000,000. The National Exchequer has received nearly £20,000,000 in free gifts and nearly £50,000,000 in loans free of interest.

WHERE THE TIME GOES

Between 13,000,000 and 14,000,000 part-time jobs—the majority of them voluntary—are being done by the people of Great Britain. Every adult is thus doing a job and a half.

Voluntary labour helps to keep the war wheels turning; 1,050,000 women are members of the W.V.S.; 500,000 housewives have received evacuees; 120,000 men and women work as volunteers in canteens; 500,000 men and women work as volunteers in the National Savings Movement; and 7,000 voluntary workers help to run the Citizens' Advice Bureaux.

COUNTLESS OTHER THINGS

Food rationing has released half the ships which formerly brought food to this country for transport of troops and supplies. Pooling of retail store deliveries alone has released one 10,000-ton tanker for a year.

Allotments are growing between £10,000,000 and £15,000,000 worth of vegetables a year. Clothes rationing has produced an economy of 300,000 tons of imported raw materials and freed 750,000 workers for war industries.

But all the figures here—£, tons, men and women—add up to 2,368,237,000. The little things matter quite a lot.

Too-old-to-Fight Pilots who Defy the Enemy

"BUSINESS as usual", despite every Axis effort to make them close shop—this is the proud boast of British Airways, which are rendering the Indian Army valuable service in this war.

The Red Ensign of the Skies, the great flying boats and land planes which daily dare perils of weather and war to maintain Allied communications, are the aerial prototype of the Merchant Navy.

They were never built for war, but now war has come, they go on, doggedly, determinedly, doing a wartime job, and playing a vital part in the war effort.

In a hundred and one ways they make a contribution to our fighting strength—transporting high military personages to battle zones, rushing important equipment and stores to areas where it is urgently required, carrying vital despatches, succouring the sick and wounded.

These are some of the more spectacular moments in the war-time lives of British Airways pilots. Not every day are they called upon to carry a General, speedily and safely, through the skies. But when the work is of a more routine character, the danger is still there.

One of the least spectacular, but most important, functions of British Airways is the carriage of troops' mails. Nothing is more important for the morale of soldiers serving in distant lands than a regular flow of mail from home.

Throughout this war of fluctuating fortunes, the air route to the United Kingdom has been kept continuously open, almost with the regularity of a peace-time, and carrying hundreds of tons of letters, postcards and airgraphs.

Nearly all the men who pilot the great merchant aircraft on the perilous routes are "too old for active service." They are veterans—but they are helping us along the way to victory!

Europe's Fighters in Exile

By GEORGE ROBOZ

FOR the first time in history, the recognized Governments of eight Allied countries—Poland, Norway, Holland, Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Luxembourg, Yugoslavia and Greece have established their headquarters in England.

One of the brightest chapters of the war, and one which has been lost in the flurry of headlines, is the story of these Governments-in-exile which have gone on fighting even after their countries had been overrun. Their contributions to the united war effort have been so great that their importance will probably not be fully determined until the war is over.

Militarily, the eight Governments-in-exile have put an army of 300,000 men in the field. The Poles, though theirs was the first country overrun in the war, have the fifth largest army among the United Nations—150,000 men in Russia, Iran, Egypt and England.

FIGHTING ARMIES

Recruits escaping from conquered Europe at night in small boats are also swelling the ranks of the Greek, Belgian, Dutch, Norwegian and Yugoslav armies in exile. Fighting French Units—though General de Gaulle's movement is not recognized as a Government-in-exile—have fought in the Middle East. In the Ethiopian campaign, French Spahis, Foreign Legionnaires and colonial troops marched 1,000 miles through the heart of Africa to help break up Mussolini's East African empire.

In the air, 10,000 Poles, 1,000 Czechs and 800 Greeks are flying with the Royal Air Force. The Polish Kosciuszko squadron before it was switched to night-fighter duty bagged many Nazis like the other famous squadrons in the Royal Air Force, was famous for taking more chances "than the buses in Piccadilly during the rush hour." Polish, Czech, and other "exiled" airmen helped form the umbrella of air power over the Channel that made the Ranger-Commando raid on Dieppe possible.

The Norwegian and French navies, 110 ships including one battleship, light cruisers, destroyers, corvettes and mine-sweepers, are also fighting, as is the bulk of the Dutch fleet, which escaped from the East Indies, and several Polish destroyers.

The colonial empires of the Governments-in-exile are contributing sizeably to the United Nations' war effort.

POST-WAR PLANS

Politically, despite the fact that they rule no more on the continent of Europe than the hearts of the people they represent, the Governments-in-exile have prevented the Axis from consolidating its territorial gains, have kept it from setting up Nazi-controlled governments in Poland, Greece, Yugoslavia, Holland and elsewhere which could claim to represent the people. Even in Norway, where the Nazis succeeded in setting up the Quisling Government, the Norwegians owe allegiance to King Haakon, and take every opportunity to show it.

The Governments-in-exile are also taking an active role in planning for post-war Europe.

(Condensed from New York Daily Mirror)

India's First Line of Defence

ALL our bombs fell in the target area. Another Japanese barracks, or goods yard, or harbour installation has been blasted by the Royal Air Force. Another blow has been struck in the defence of India.

Have you ever wondered how it is done, this bombing by our airmen?

The chief responsibility—and credit—falls to the navigator, who is also the bomb-aimer. But it is only by the closest co-operation between him and the pilot that good results can be achieved. Upon their work during the few seconds they are over the target depends the success, or failure, of the whole flight.

As the approach run is made, anti-aircraft fire will almost certainly be met. The pilot will be taking avoiding action, but in such a way that the bomb-aimer, who is gradually getting the target into his sights, does not lose it.

IGNORING OPPOSITION

Nearer still, and the pilot flies a steadier course, following the instructions of the aimer. "Left, left. Steady." Then, a more urgent "Left, left." Too much, and the pilot hears a long drawn out "Right". At last comes "Steady", and finally "Steady, bombing."

The pilot must now keep on a straight, level course, regardless of anti-aircraft fire, or even fighter opposition, until he hears "Bombs gone," usually the signal for him to take immediate further evasive action.

The navigator calmly returns to his charts and continues his work—calculating, plotting, dead reckoning, giving bearings to the pilot. He is it who finds the target, drops the bombs and guides the aircraft safely back to its base.

He is the one man in the crew who never has a minute's rest, from take-off to touch-down.

Polish Boy Refugee in India

"YOU must see Henzel. He owns the Hospital to day." These were the words that greeted the visitor going round a military hospital in India on Christmas Day.

Henzel is a Polish efuges, aged 8, an orphan as far as known. His pale face, blond hair, blue eyes and cheerful smile is all that one sees peering out of a big white bundle in the surgical ward. He is a spinal case, who lies on his chest in a barrel of plaster and bandages. His ward-mates are all British ranks, some wounded on service in India or overseas, some injured by car or air crashes, some just local surgical cases. His patience and cheerfulness has won all their hearts. They too have won his . . .

He can usually be seen holding his court, talking, having his English lesson and playing with three or four of them. They have—under the guise of "occupational therapy"—built him a table, just the right height for him to look down on and reach with his hands. They have also made him a "tray", an ingenious Heath Robinson contraption, part-bed, part-table, part-stretcher, where he can lie cocked up at a convenient angle and be carried out into the veranda, or to visit other bed-ridden cases.

His Christmas presents from the rest of the ward are his great pride. All chosen wisely to help in his recovery. A miniature piano, on which he can already tinkle "The Blue Bells of Scotland", to work his fingers. A real wrist watch. Picture books with the alphabet, and a suit of English clothes, a present from his R.A.M.C. orderly to wear when he gets up. He has other friends too, as two United States airmen have come in ten miles to see him and bring him their Christmas present.

On Christmas afternoon the Royal Air Force Band came to play to the hospital. Henzel was carried out and his "tray" adjusted so that he could see the band and spectators.

The General, who was visiting, went up and greeted Henzel, who held his hand and kept on holding it, while he got off with pride and delight all the English he knew and all that his ward-mates had taught him to say.

It seemed that he was going to join both the United States and British Air Forces as well as half the regiments in the Army List when he got well.

He was then carried back to the ward, tired and triumphant, with two British and two American friends at each corner of his "tray".

It was a scene which, if shown in the cinema, would be criticised as "impossible bathos" or "sentimental slush". In fact, however, it was a very real and moving one, as the fact that Henzel is going to get well is due to the innate kindness of the British and American soldiers.

Return of Empties Requested

THERE is a serious shortage of metal containers and of the steel from which they are made. After discussion with the principal business interests concerned, the Government of India appeal—

(i) to all *suppliers* of goods in metal containers to make every effort to secure the return of the containers by their customers;

(ii) to all *purchasers* of goods in metal containers to co-operate with the suppliers by taking every possible care of the containers and returning them to the suppliers.

Requests by suppliers for the return of containers have the full support of the Government of India, and purchasers can render a very real service to the war effort by complying with them.

In connexion specifically with 40 and 5 gallon drums used for oils and greases, Government have devised a scheme to be operated by the oil companies under the general supervision of Government. The general idea of the scheme is that drums must be returned before replenishments of oil can be obtained but in the case of up-country consumers, provision is made to enable replenishments to be despatched before the empty drums actually reach the suppliers.

It is emphasized that as the usual life of a container depends to a great extent on the treatment that it receives, all users are asked to take every possible care of them while in their possession and in particular to see that skids are always used when unloading drums from wagons or transport.

Diary of the War

ENGLAND AND GERMANY

8th Jan.—Dr. Newmann, Germany's Secretary of State and the head of the Four-Year Plan, was dismissed from service.

9th Jan.—The Royal Air Force attacked the Ruhr.

10th Jan.—Sir Stafford Cripps, Minister of Aircraft Production, said: "Once again we should start on more extended delivery of bombs over Germany and Italy."

11th Jan.—The Royal Air Force bombed the Ruhr again. Targets in Essen were attacked.

A treaty was signed between Britain and China for the abolition of extra-territorial rights in China.

* * * *

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE ATLANTIC

8th Jan.—President Roosevelt delivered a message to the Congress. He uttered a warning to Japan: "War will be taken to the enemy's country in 1943." After the war, he said, Germany, Italy and Japan must be disarmed and kept disarmed.

11th Jan.—A treaty was signed between the United States and China for the abolition of extra-territorial rights in China.

12th Jan.—Writing in the *Christian Science Monitor*, Mrs. Roosevelt said: "First of all we want a world which is disarmed. There will have to be an international police force."

* * * *

INDIA, BURMA AND CEYLON

8th Jan.—Mr. Philipps, President Roosevelt's representative in India, arrived.

The Royal Air Force destroyed a Japanese gun-post near Akyab.

10th Jan.—Allied troops contacted the Japanese near Rathedaung.

12th Jan.—Isolated parties of Japanese held out in the Mayu Peninsula. Fighting continued on either side of the Mayu river in the Arakan district.

* * * *

ITALY, AFRICA AND THE MEDITERRANEAN

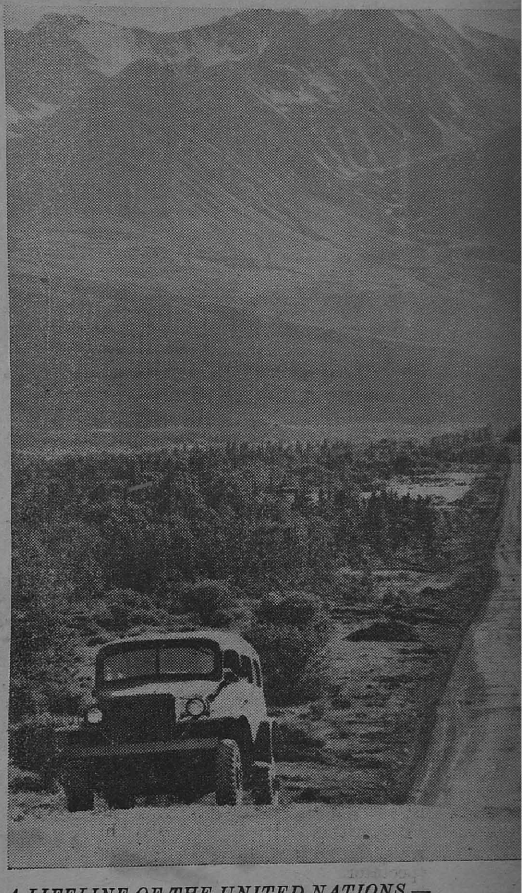
8th Jan.—Allied troops were dislodged from the summit of Dazzag.

It was reported that General Giraud had agreed to a meeting with General de Gaulle on French soil.

A LIMERICK FROM AMERICA

Not long ago news about Gandhi
Was daily most everywhere handhi,
But since his seclusion,
There's none for perusion,
Which truthfully seems rather dandhi.

—*Christian Science Monitor.*



A LIFELINE OF THE UNITED NATIONS.—Through swamps and marshes, around mile-high mountains, through bleak Canadian wilderness, the new Alaska Highway pushes to the North—a lifeline to the United Nations.

THEME SONG

Pilot: "Have you learned the theme song of the parachute corps?"

Cadet: "Theme song? What is it?"

Pilot: "It don't mean a thing if you don't pull the string."

An enemy troop transport and a supply ship were destroyed by British submarines in the Mediterranean.

The Fighting French forces captured an important Axis port 60 miles east of Murzuk.

10th Jan.—German troops were thrown back in Tunisia. The enemy was routed at Fezzan.

All French ships in Marseilles were manned by the Germans.

11th Jan.—Castel Benito was bombed.

General Giraud, addressing the French officers, said: "I give you my word that we shall drive the Germans out of Tunisia."

12th Jan.—Enemy attack near Sfax was repulsed. Axis transport was bombed in Tripolitania. The German headquarters in Kaironan were completely demolished.

* * * *

RUSSIA AND FINLAND

8th Jan.—Russian troops were within 75 miles of Rostov.

9th Jan.—The German radio admitted the "incredible Russian success."

10th Jan.—The Red Army occupied a vital rail head 60 miles from Rostov. Nazis retreated in the Caucasus.

11th Jan.—The Russians advanced on Salsk. Nazi troops faced encirclement.

12th Jan.—The Red Army took Georgievsk, an important railway junction. Mineralnye Vody was recaptured.

NEUTRAL COUNTRIES

10th Jan.—The Turkish press delegation left for India.

* * * *

SHIPPING

9th Jan.—A small United States merchantman was torpedoed and sunk by a submarine in the Indian Ocean.

* * * *

THE FAR EAST

8th Jan.—The Japanese captured Lihuang, the capital of Anhwei province.

9th Jan.—The United States bombers attacked Kiska.

A Japanese convoy was attacked at Rabaul and two big transports were sunk.

10th Jan.—Two Japanese liners were sunk off Woosung, 25 miles from Shanghai.

Twenty Japanese fighters were destroyed in South Pacific.

11th Jan.—General Tojo, the Japanese Prime Minister, said: "Japan has secured her basic strategical positions. We are in a position to fight."

The Japanese sustained heavy losses in south-west Pacific. An enemy convoy was bombed off New Guinea.

12th Jan.—Allied planes raided Lae. An American War Department spokesman said in Washington that at least 353 Japanese aircraft, 19 warships and 85 merchantmen were destroyed in General MacArthur's New Guinea Campaign.

Coolies captured from the Japanese at Buna revealed that the Japanese flogged them with whips.

The Chinese retook Shancheng.

American troops advanced in Guadalcanar.

Substantial Advance in 1943

"I do not prophesy when this war will end, but I do believe this year of 1943 will give to the United Nations a very substantial advance along the roads that lead to Berlin, Rome and Tokyo."

—PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT
in a Message to the U.S. Congress on January 7.

CONTINUANCE OF HELP TO EVACUEES

The Government of India have authorized the continuance of their scheme of financial assistance to evacuees and dependants of Indians stranded in enemy-occupied territories for a further period of six months from January 1, 1943.

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